

REMARKS

Claims 3, 6, 7, 9, 15, 18, 19, and 21 have been amended. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 10-14, 16, 17, 20, and 22-27 have been canceled. Reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 11-13, 22, 23, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0032662 ("Maclin").

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection based on the Examiner's characterization of the teachings of Maclin. In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that the prior art of record does not teach or suggest the subject matter of these claims. However, Applicant has canceled Claims 1, 11-13, 22, 23, and 27 to expedite prosecution, and, therefore, this rejection is moot. Applicant reserves the right to re-present and prosecute these claims in a continuation application.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected Claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, 14, 16, 17, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Maclin in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0011246 ("Flitcroft").

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection based on the Examiner's characterization of the teachings of Maclin. In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that the prior art of record does not teach or suggest the subject matter of these claims. However, Applicant has canceled Claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, 14, 16, 17, and 20 to expedite prosecution, and, therefore, this rejection is moot. Applicant reserves the right to re-present and prosecute these claims in a continuation application.

The Examiner rejected Claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, 14, 16, 17, and 20 (Applicant presumes that the Examiner meant Claims 24-26) under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Maclin in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0004879 ("Demoff").

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection based on the Examiner's characterization of the teachings of Maclin. In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that the prior art of record does not teach or suggest the subject matter of these claims. However,

Applicant has canceled Claims 24-26 to expedite prosecution, and, therefore, this rejection is moot. Applicant reserves the right to re-present and prosecute these claims in a continuation application.

Allowable Subject Matter

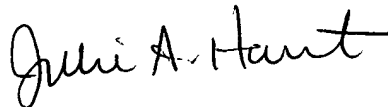
The Examiner indicated that Claims 3, 6, 7, 9, 15, 18, 19, and 21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that Claims 3, 6, 7, 9, 15, 18, 19, and 21 are allowable. Accordingly, Applicant has rewritten Claims 3, 6, 7, 9, 15, 18, 19, and 21 in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and the intervening claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, allowance of Claims 3, 6, 7, 9, 15, 18, 19, and 21 is respectfully requested. The undersigned is available for telephone consultation during normal business hours.

Respectfully submitted,



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